



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE

VOL. XXI

APRIL, 1920

No. 2

LETTERS CONCERNING PETER MANIGAULT, 1773

The Letters here printed are the property of Miss Elizabeth Heyward Jervey, who has kindly allowed them to be published.

They chiefly are concerned with the last illness of the Hon. Peter Manigault, son of Gabriel Manigault and the Mrs. Ann Manigault whose journal has been appearing in this *Magazine*. Some account of Peter Manigault will be found on pages 66-67 of this issue.

[PETER MANIGAULT TO HIS MOTHER]

Addressed:

Mrs Anne Manigault
To the Care of
Benjamin Stead Esq
Berners Street
Oxford Road
London

Exeter 21st July 1773

Hond Madam

In my letter to my Father of the 10th Instant I informed him of my having been very ill, & that I then intended to set out for Bristol in a few Days. But finding myself very weak, & being satisfied that I was as well off here, as in any Part of England in Point of air Climate, and good Assistance, I altered my Intention, and determined to remain at this place, until I should be perfectly recruited and though these English Fevers are exceedingly

severe yet I have the satisfaction to inform you that I have, mended exceedingly, And though it was with difficulty I could walk across the Room Ten Days ago, I can now march a mile without Inconvenience.—I have met with great Attention and civility from several Persons here, particularly from Mr. Binford and Capt. Hale who carried Governor Lyttleton to Carolina: Otherwise, single and unknown as I was, when I first came here, I should have passed my Time very indifferently, considering how very ill I have been. Indeed to be sick in a strange Land, at a great Distance from one's Friends and Relations, is no desirable Situation; But by the assistance of Providence I have been enabled to bear these Misfortunes with Patience and Resignation.—I am undetermined when I shall go to London. I have no very particular Call there, And it is the universal Opinion that a Re-establishment of my Health which is what I want, is not to be looked for there. Be not Surprised that I did not Write to you before; my Health would not permit.—As I recover, you may depend upon hearing oftener from,

Your ever dutiful Son,

P. Manigault.

[2]

Addressed:

Mrs Anne Manigault

Charles Town

South Carolina.

To the Care of George Bell Esq;
at Falmouth.

Exeter 5th August, 1773.

Hond. Madam.

I was in Hopes before this Time to have written to you, upon a Subject more agreeable to myself, at the same Time that it might give Pleasuer to you, But since I wrote last, I have not improved in my Health so fast as I expected. However, I thank God, I am so much mended, that I intend to set out for Bristol Wells this Afternoon, from whence I flatter myself I shall soon be able to give you better Accounts. You may depend upon it that I shall omit no opportunity that I know of, to mention my Situation to you or my Father. I therefore desire you will not be fritted with

any Reports, which upon these Occasions are generally magnified,
As I grow better you will find my Letters grow longer. But for
the Present, you must be contented with a short one, from

Your dutiful Son

P. Manigault.

[3]

Addressed:

Mrs. Anne Manigault

Charlestown

So. Carolina

By Capt. White,

2 D. C.

Bristol Wells 26th August 1773

Hond Madam

To receive at the same Time Letters from my Father, my Mother and three of my Children, was too much for my weak nerves. I sunk down upon the Couch, and was the whole Day before I could read them all. My whole Thoughts are so wrapped up in my Friends in Carolina that there is no pleasure, no Satisfaction for me in England. And I am continually making Comparisons, which right or wrong, always and in Favour of my own Country. Indeed I have had little to please me since my arrival. Sickness and melancholy Thoughts, having been my only Portion. But by the Blessing of Providence I think I recover, though but slowly. I now am able to take a Walk Morning and Evening, besides a Ride betwixt Dinner and Breakfast, and have a good Appetite, which however am obliged to restrain, by a very strict Regimen. My Acquaintances all say I look better, But perhaps they flatter me. I do not think I shall be able to return to Carolina, this Winter, though it is my most ardent Wish so to do. The Physicians tell me I must not return so soon, and at the same Time say, that this Climate will by no means do for me during the Winter; so that I think of going to France, I mean the South Part of it, or Italy.—It is a most sensible Mortification to me to be absent from you so long, But my Health requires it and the Duty I owe to my Family makes it indispensably necessary. I would take this Opportunity of Writing to my little ones, but writing is at present a Difficult Thing to me. Assure them of my

tenderest Affection, and tell them, that I have not forgot what I promised them, But that my Sickness and absence from London, has prevented me from sending them some little Token of my Regard. I have ordered six pounds of the best Hyson Tea from London to be sent to you, I beg you will sent Two pounds of it to Miss Nancy Wragg, I make an Apology to her for my not writing to her. Another Pound is intended for Mrs. Poaug;¹ who Poor Woman, ought to have these Things, though her hard Fortune has put it out of her Power to buy them.

My Stay at this Place is uncertain, But I believe it may be about three Weeks longer.—Wherever I am, It shall ever be my greatest Satisfaction, to be

Your most dutiful and affectionate Son

P. Manigault.

I believe Mr. Stead will send the Half Mourning for Nancy and Harriett by this Opportunity.

[4]

Bristol Wells 11th September 1773

Hond Madam

I write this with some Expectation of its reaching Captn White before he leaves London as I would not miss an Opportunity of letting you know that I received your letter by the Eagle Packet. I should have been in London before now, but Mr. Stead having wrote me word that he and his Daughters would be here in a day or two, I wait for them and suppose, I shall go to London with them in a week or ten Days.

I have no Opinion either of the Physician's, or the Waters of this Place. I am clear Goose Creek Water is full as good, and the Reputation of Bristol Wells, is cryed up by the Faculty in order to Draw Patients. I hold my Recovery so far, to be owing to the Goodness of the Air, a strict Regimen, and constant Exercise. I have lived Principally upon Milk for Eight Weeks past, and a little Fruit, allowing myself a little Broth once a Day for the first Month, and since that a Bit of White Meat. My Drink has

¹ She was Charlotte Wragg, married 1752 to John Poaug, a sister of Elizabeth Wragg, who was the wife to Peter Manigault.

been common Water, not the Hot Well Water, For I soon found, that the only Purpose that served, was to make me drowsy. In all this Time, I have not drank half a pint of Wine, or any other Spirits, not even small Beer, which in this Part of England is almost as Weak as Water. I am grown so 'fond of this manner of Life, and find such good Effects from it, that I believe I never shall quit it as long as I live.

I leave you to imagine from your own Feelings, how happy I am to hear that my Children are well, and how that Happiness is increased, upon being informed that they behave well. I should have no Rest during my absence from them, were I not thoroughly satisfied with their Situation, that indeed, makes me easy, and yet I some times am apprehensive, that Nancy or Henney wear Stays, or some Thing like them. If they do, I shall look upon myself and them too, to be most unkindly treated, when I see the Bristol Women, as crooked as Cow's Horns, I cannot but lament that man, or rather Woman, should attempt to mend the works of God; But am not surprised that they should fail in the attempt, This is sufficient to shew my opinion about this Matter, and I hope you will not take it amis, for I have it so much to Heart, that I could not help mentioning it. I have been wanting to send the Children some little Present, But I find everything so ordinary at Bristol, that they must wait till I get to London. I went to a Fair two or three Days ago, on purpose to try to get some Trifles for them. But could not please myself.

Your Niece Downes² has had her child inoculated, and it is recovered. I hear she is expected soon at Bath, and that Frank

² She was Mary Lejau, daughter of Col. Francis Lejau and Mary Ashby his wife, sister to Mrs. Anne Manigault. Mary Lejau married September 3, 1760, Richard Downes, an English Merchant, who had settled in South Carolina (this *Magazine*, vol. xx, p. 135).

Richard Downes and his family went to England in May, 1773 (p. 64), and seem to have not returned. He died in England late in 1776. In his will dated July 3, 1776, proved January 3, 1777, he describes himself as being of the town of Ludlow, County of Salop (Shropshire) gentleman; mentions his wife Mary, his daughters Elizabeth and Ann, both under age; his nephew Richard, son of his brother Thomas Downes, late of Newton, county of Montgomery; nephews William, Edward, and Josiah, sons of his brother John Downes, late of Bishops Castle in County of Salop; nephew Richard Downes, of Wapping,

Huger³ who is lately returned from France, is to be with her. I fancy he wont much like the Company of such old-fashioned People as his Uncle and Aunt.

We have had an extreme fine Summer in England, though I have not had Health to enjoy it. But the Weather begins now to be raw and windy. With all their Brags of the Healthiness of the Climate, I never saw so much sickness in my life. Whilst I was in Devonshire, People of all ages and Ranks, were dying every day of the Putrid sore Throat, the People looked as if they had all been at Ponpon, Fevers and Agues were so plenty, that in some Parishes not a Family escaped, and in Others not one of the Family. At Bristol, a Gentleman his Wife two Sons and a Maid Servant were buried in one Day: and the People as much frightened, as if there were no Mercy in Heaven. In the mean Time the Physicians, of which there are great Plenty, seemed to thrive upon the Spoil, and enjoy the Harvest.

I have met with more of my Acquaintance here than I expected. Collo. Laurens staid with me three weeks. Mr. Izard came from London on Purpose to see me and staid here as many Days. Mrs. Beresford and her Daughters and Son were here for some Time, upon a Pretence to recover Mrs. Delancy⁴ of a Cough, But in Fact to enjoy the Diversions of the Place. I have received the greatest Civilties from Mr. and Mrs. Brailsford, and indeed, to do Justice to the Inhabitants of the West of England, I must say that I have been treated with great Kindness, by all Ranks of People, especially during my Sickness.

London; nephews John, William and Thomas Taylor, sons of his sister Sarah Taylor of the Brake, parish of ———, county of Herefore.

Plantation and slaves at Stono, St. Paul's Parish, Province of South Carolina, to be sold if necessary.

Wife Mary, and friends Humphrey Sommers, John Sommers, William Roper, Robert Williams Jr., Plowden Weston, and Francis Huger, all of Charles Town, in South Carolina, to be his executors.

His daughter Elizabeth married in 1787, Rev. Thomas Frost, of St. Philip's Church.

³ Frank Huger born 1751, was the son of Daniel Huger and his fourth wife Ann Lejau, a sister of the above mentioned Mrs. Mary Downes.

⁴ Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Beresford, Esq., and widow of Peter DeLancey, Esq. (January issue, pp. 19, 21.)

I have lately written to my Father by a Ship which is now wind bound at Bristol, and by her I have sent him two Chaise. I find there are like to be frequent Opportunities for Carolina, so that you may depend upon Hearing often from

Your dutiful Son

P. Manigault.

[5]

Addressed:

For

Mrs. Anne Manigault
Charles Town
South Carolina
By the Eagle Packet
Capt. Nicholls.

London 6th October 1773.

Hond Madam

After being three Months in England, you find that I am at last in London, where I expect very little Pleasure, as my Health is far from being reestablished, though mended, and the Season so far advanced that I must necessarily go into warmer Quarters. I am at present with Mr. Stead by his Invitation, and the Ease and Freedom I enjoy at his House, would make me happy if anything on the Side of the Water could do so, His Daughters are well bred young Women, especially Polly, who is not so reserved as her Sister, and of Course pleases more. His Son Ben is just taken from school, he is a great awkward young Fellow, and will take a Great Deal of polishing. In about a Fortnight I intend to quit England, and either go to Lisborne and Spain or to the South of France. I wait to hear from Blake who is at Paris before I determine. I could not resist the Temptation of going to a Play last Night: But I, did wrong, for the Trouble I had in getting in, occasioned by Weakness, more then counter-balanced, the Pleasure of the Play. I who know the want of Health, most ardently wish it may be granted to you, in greater Abundance than it has been, to

Your ever dutiful Son,

P. Manigault.

HENRY LAURENS TO GABRIEL MANIGAULT

[1]

Addressed:

Gabriel Manigault Esquire
at Charles Town
in South Carolina

By the
Packet
Capt. Copeland,
From Falmouth

Westminster 3d. November 1773.

Dear Sir:

Three days ago I put our Sick friend in mind, that a Mail for Carolina was to be made up this Evening and desired him to write to you which, I observed to him, would give more satisfaction to his friends than intelligence from any other person—He promised to have a Letter ready, therefore I had no thought of writing by this Conveyance, before I made the Visit to him, from which I am just now returned, when Mr. Stead informed me that neither Mr. Manigault nor himself had wrote—I think it would be unkind to let the opportunity pass without a Line to you especially as there has happened a considerable alteration within the last 36 Hours.

About 8 or 9 days ago there was a most favourable appearance in Mr. Manigaults Case, as if the grand Cause of his Complaint was removed—Dr. Fothergill⁵ was so pleased and surprised that he could not forbear expressing hopes of his perfect Recovery contrary to his former opinion—We all rejoiced at the prospect—but our pleasure received a sudden Check by a fainting fit and slight Convulsion which happened this night and left an Inflammation in the left Eye—the effect of which however was trifling and soon passed over.

The day before yesterday I rode abroad with him, he was cheerful and stronger than I could have expected, we alighted

⁵ John Fothergill, M.D., 1712–1780; a well known English physician of the eighteenth century; he had family connections in America, and coöperated with Benjamin Franklin in 1774 in drawing up a scheme of reconciliation between Great Britain and the colonies which was never considered. (See *Dictionary of National Biography*).

under the Wall of Kensington Park on a Dry, smooth spot where he walked a good while to and fro in the Sunshine, then returned home amazingly well—in our Ride he told me of a troublesome boil of the Fistula class—which gave me some anxiety, but upon speaking to a very Skilful Surgeon of my acquaintance as a friend, he assured me that it was a most fortunate Circumstance and probably would prove the Drain through which other Complaints would be carried off and the patient Restored to health—this good Account was Confirmed in the same words by his Apothecary in my presence yesterday Morning—after this Doctor had left him. Mr. Manigault Eat and Drank heartily and not being able to Ride he desired me to walk with him—he leaned on my Arm and walked at least half a mile on the pavement—I left him very Cheerful and disposed to a further Walk if the Soreness of the Boil would have permitted—

This Morning proved Rainy which I knew would confine him to the House therefore I delayed my customary visit till Evening, when to my great sorrow, I found him in Bed in consequence of a second attack a few hours after I left him yesterday, by a Convulsion fit much stronger and more alarming than the former; He had been insensible several Hours, passed a painful Night and kept the Bed all this Day. doctor Fothergill was sent for while the Fit was on, ordered him a Vomit, which was forced down and by its operation relieved him—

Miss Stead informed me, that the Doctor said, he would get the better of this attack and be as well he was before it happened—I must confess there is an ambiguity in this Speech which makes me uneasy.—This my Dear Sir is a plain Account of our friends case as it stood two hours ago—if Mr. Stead can write by Candle Light perhaps he may add some particulars which may have escaped me.

We must wait with Patience for the Event, I still hope he will do well, in the mean time all your friends are exceedingly anxious on account of Mrs. Manigault and your self and everything in their power is done for the services of the poor Patient.

I remain with the most affectionate regard

Dear Sir Your much obliged humb. Servt.

Henry Laurens.

Gabriel Manigault, Esquire.

Endorsed: Mr. Peter Manigault's Sickness

[2]

Addressed: Gabriel Manigault, Esquire
at CharlesTown
South Carolina

Per Capt. Gunn.

Westminster 12th November 1773

Dear Sir,

Two or three days after I had wrote you an unfavorable account under the 3d Inst. of our Dear Friend your Son, he recovered so fast as to amaze every body about him and we held it as certain that the great Cause of his Complaint was removed and that he would every day gain strength, and tho he wrote to you with some diffidence and Caution, he was sensible of the amendment and acknowledged that he was better than he had been since his arrival in England. Doctors and every one conceived in the same opinion—but alas! our Sunshine was soon overcast again—the day before yesterday he was seized by a Chilly fit which carried him to Bed—Yesterday he suffered a more violent shivering than the former and to Day he has been extremely ill, much pain in his right side accompanied by Fever and difficulty of breathing—and at a certain short interval of Ease he intimated to me his apprehensions of approaching dissolution—The continuance of Life he said was very uncertain therefore desired me to write a Codicil to his Will I replied I was not acquainted with the form for such an Instrument and would have delayed it till a proper hand could have been sent for, but he smiled and beconed me to do it—then added, “it would vex me to have it delayed”—as soon as it was wrote he executed and desired me to seal it up—

This Codicil consists only of two Clauses, ordering that the Negro Woman Moll and her children shall be freed from Slavery immediately after his death; and his Man July, at the end of three Years from that period.—

It is now nine o’Clock in the Evening I am just returned from Mr. Manigault’s Bed side, he has been delirious for some hours and the Prognosties of Death were so strong when I left him that I have little hopes of finding him alive to Morrow—I was extremely loth to quit him but the Customs of this Country differ from those of our own.—

As I may yet overtake Capt. Gunn, I thought it my Duty to devote a few minutes to apprise you of this unexpected change of Circumstances—I feel for Mrs. Manigault, for you and for the Dear Children, but My Dear Sir, as I know well your fortitude, I trouble you not with Consolatory arguments on this melancholy occasion such are unnecessary to the Man whose trust is in God—who has habituated himself to a Patient submission to all dispensations of our Wise and Merciful Creator; therefore I have only to add that I continue with the most affectionate regard.

Your much obliged and obedt. Servant

Henry Laurens.

Dr. Fothergill supposes that Mr. Manigault took fresh Cold but I believe the expense through that Channel which they hoped would carry off his disorder has been too great for his weak frame.
Gabriel Manigault Esquire.